

**Gravel Creek Cattle & Horse  
Beaver Creek and Badger Creek Community Units  
Mountain City Ranger District  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- **Permitte:** Seven X Ranch LLC

**GRAVEL CREEK C&H, BEAVER CREEK CU, AND BADGER CREEK CU  
PERMITTED USE**

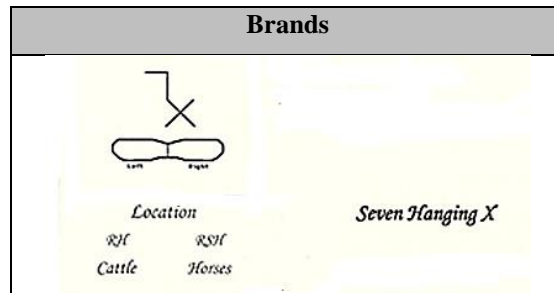
Allotment	Number/Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Gravel Creek	177c/c	APR 15 - JUN 15	361
Gravel Creek	70c/c	JUN 15 – AUG 31	177
Beaver Ck CU & Badger Ck CU	107c/c	JUN 15 – AUG 31	271
Gravel Creek	177c/c	NOV 1 – DEC 15	262
Gravel Creek	2 horse	MAY 1 – DEC 15	15
Gravel Creek	8 horse	JUN 1 – SEP 1	24

**GRAVEL CREEK C&H, BEAVER CREEK CU, AND BADGER CREEK CU  
AUTHORIZED USE**

\*Rotation follows year 2 of the Allotment Management Plan, the 2016 AOI will rotate to year 1 of the AMP.

Unit	Number/Class	Season of Use	Head Months
Lower Gravel Creek	174 hd	*APR 20 – MAY 31	173
Upper Gravel Creek		JUN 1 – JUN 30	168
Upper Gravel Creek	74 hd	JUL 1 – JUL 31	71
Badger Creek		AUG 1 – AUG 31	69
Upper Cow Canyon	100 hd	JUL 1 – JUL 31	102
Beaver Creek		AUG 1 – AUG 31	99
Cow Canyon	174 hd	OCT 1 – NOV 15	257
Cow Canyon	10 horses	JUN 1 – NOV 15	24

- Permitted Livestock Brands



## II. COMPLIANCE

- Upon signature, these Annual Operating Instructions supplement and are part of your Term Grazing Permit # 60138 consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Requirements.
- Situations may develop during the grazing season, which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some parts of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.
- Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and this instruction will result in permit action, which can include suspension or cancellation of part or all of your Term Grazing Permit.
- By USDA order 04-00-097, all non-pelletized hay, straw, or mulch possessed, stored, or transported on National Forest System Lands, in individual bales or containers, must be tagged or marked as noxious weed free, or must have the original and current evidence of noxious weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as noxious weed free.
- As a reminder, requests for nonuse of term grazing permits for personal convenience must be made annually by the permittee in writing sufficiently in advance of the start of the permitted grazing season, (normally 30 days). Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period. As the term permit holder, you are responsible for the maintenance on all assigned improvements on your permitted allotments during the nonuse period.

## III. 2015 GRAZING RESULTS

#### **IV. BILLING**

- Grazing fees for 2016 are \$2.11 per head month and the unauthorized use fee is \$10.68 per head month.
- Payment of your grazing bill is preferably due five days prior to your earliest turnout date, to allow time for processing. As a reminder, the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay grazing fees. Placing livestock on the allotment prior to payment is non-compliance with Part 2, item 3 of the grazing permit and will be charged at the unauthorized use rate, and may include suspension or cancellation of the grazing permit.

#### **V. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

- Grazing System: Deferred Rotation
- Authorized use dates (turn –on & turn- off) are tentative and depend on range readiness, forage utilization and resource conditions during the entire grazing season. Livestock remaining on the allotment past the authorized use date will be billed at the unauthorized use rate.
- Permittees are responsible for monitoring forage utilization within the allotment. Before allowable forage use rates are met in identified key use areas, livestock will be herded to another area or removed from the allotment.
- Owners of permitted livestock must comply with State of Nevada laws and regulations.

#### **VI. HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LRMP) STANDARDS AND GUIDES**

- Allowable use is the degree of grazing specified for a particular area and/or plant(s). You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached. You should plan to move cattle to the next pasture or area in your rotation or off the allotment, before allowable use has been reached. This will be done regardless of the time remaining in the grazing season or how many Head Months you have paid for. If you need assistance determining use levels or identifying key areas, please do not hesitate to contact the Rangeland Management Specialist.
- Management will be directed toward having riparian areas in good or better ecological condition and stable or upward trend.
- Utilization is based on current year's growth for browse and shrubs. The utilization percentages represent the maximum that will be allowed based on current livestock practices and is measured as point in time. The following utilization standards will be the maximum utilization levels allowed for all herbivores on key vegetative species.

- **Amendment 2 of the Humboldt-Toiyabe LRMP Dated July 1990:**

- The maximum utilization levels would normally be used only where the plant community is at or near the desired future condition.
- The listed value is the maximum rate which can be prescribed unless otherwise approved by the Forest Supervisor.
- In most instances utilization would be lower for higher value management categories; however, this can vary according to ecological conditions and key species.
- Key species can vary by range site and management systems.
- Proper use based on the utilization of shrubs will normally not exceed 35% of the current year's growth.
- Under the High Intensity short duration (early season), timing in relation to the period for regrowth is key. The system is dependent upon sufficient regrowth to meet plant physiological needs and other resource values. Physical damage to the vegetative and soils resources needs to be considered.
- Sediment entrapment is essential to streambank restoration. If this is an objective at least 3-4 inches of herbaceous stubble height is needed on site during high flow periods.

**ALLOTMENT: GRAVEL CREEK C&H**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Badger Creek Trail Creek Upper Gravel Creek	Desirable Grasses and Sedges	35%
Class III	Cow Canyon Springs and Seeps	Desirable Grasses and Sedges	50%
Class IV	Lower Gravel Creek	Desirable Grasses and Sedges	55%
Uplands	All Units	Bluebunch wheatgrass Idaho Fescue	50%
Upland Browse	All Units	Shrubs/Aspen	35%
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Shrubs/Aspen	35%

**ALLOTMENT: BEAVER CREEK CU**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Beaver Creek Springs & Seeps	Desirable Grasses and Sedges	35% (total by sheep and cattle) 45%
Uplands	All Units	Bluebunch wheatgrass Idaho Fescue	50% (total by sheep and cattle)
Upland Browse	All Units	Bitterbrush, Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry	35%(total by sheep and cattle)
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%(total by sheep and cattle)

**ALLOTMENT: BADGER CREEK CU**

Category	Area Name	Key Species	Utilization
Class II	Badger Creek	Desirable Grasses and Sedges	35% (total by sheep and cattle)
Class III	Cow Canyon	Desirable Grasses and Sedges	50%(total by sheep and cattle)
Uplands	All Units	Bluebunch wheatgrass Idaho Fescue	50%(total by sheep and cattle)
Upland Browse	All Units	Bitterbrush, Snowberry, Aspen, Chokecherry	35%(total by sheep and cattle)
Riparian Browse	All Streams	Willows	35%(total by sheep and cattle)

**VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

- Range structural improvements will be constructed and maintained to facilitate proper use of the range resource.
- Range improvements must be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment(s). Please be aware that it is necessary to plan projects with at least one-year lead-time to allow for the required documentation and clearances. Please work with the Rangeland Management Specialist to develop a schedule for large projects.

Improvement	Type	INFRA #	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Frank's	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	161001	T44N R54E SEC 6 SENW	
Willow	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	161002	T44N R54E SEC 6 NWSW	
Sagebrush Flat	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	161003	T44N R54E SEC 7 SWSE	
Shallow Basin	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	161004	T44N R54E SEC 7 SWNE	
Sage Grouse	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	161005	T44N R54E SEC 17 SENE	
Cow Canyon	Water Dvlp- Pit Tank	161006	T44N R54E SEC 20 SWNW	
Cow Canyon	Water Dvlp-Trough	161007	T44N R54E SEC 20 NENE	
White Horse	Water Dvlp-Trough	161008	T44N R54E SEC 18 SWNW	
Baker	Water Dvlp-Trough	161009	T44N R54E SEC 7 SENW	
East Fork	Water Dvlp-Trough	161010	T44N R54E SEC 18 NENW	
Badger Creek	Fence	161011	T44N R53E SEC 6,7,18	
*Gravel Creek	Fence	161012	T44N R54E SEC 1,12,13,18	

*\*Maintenance on the Fence is shared with adjacent Wood Gulch Allotment (Wood Gulch even years- Gravel Creek odd years).*

**2016 Projects:** Listed below are agreed to maintenance and improvement projects that will be completed in the current grazing season.

Improvement	Description	FS Contribution	Permittee Contribution	INFRA#

#### **VIII. PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS**

- Place salt or supplement at least 200 yards from water sources, trailheads, roads, and key areas. Salt will be removed before maximum allowable use levels have been reached and at the end of the grazing season. Salt fed in loose form shall be contained to keep it from spilling onto the ground. Salt or supplement will be removed from a pasture when the livestock are removed.
- Your assistance in locating noxious weed sites and reporting them to your Forest Officer is greatly appreciated. If you are able and willing to assist in treating noxious weeds, please work with your Forest Officer to determine how best to help.
- If you spot a wildfire, report it immediately to the interagency dispatch center in Elko, NV at (775) 748-4000
- The permittee will insure that all personnel performing on the ground livestock management are thoroughly familiar with the terms of the grazing permit and annual operating instructions.

#### **IX. REQUIRED REPORTING**

- Enclosed is a Grazing Use Record for the upcoming season. Please use this form to record the dates livestock spend on the allotment as well as other information such as livestock loss, grazing use, resource concerns, improvement needs/maintenance costs,

etc. The grazing use record should be submitted to the district office by December 31, 2015.

## **X. INSPECTIONS & MONITORING**

- Range Readiness- Livestock will not be placed on the allotment until soils are dry enough to prevent damage to vegetation or increase soil erosion, and when key plants are phonologically ready to be grazed.

## **XI. COORDINATION & COOPERATION**

## **XII. OTHER**

- In case of any deceased livestock, notify a Forest Officer, determine the impact to the public, move out of water to the first flood plain, and move away from trails, roads, etc.

## **XIII. MAPS, FORMS, & ATTACHMENTS**

- You will find attached to your AOI a Grazing Use Record

#### **XIV. SIGNATURE BLOCK**

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rangeland Management Specialist Date

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permittee or Authorized Representative Date

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Ranger Date